

Regional Resource Stewardship Council Advice

March 13-14, 2008

Discussion Questions

- 1) From a land and water stewardship perspective, what are the specific focus areas that need to be covered in TVA's overarching environmental policy?
- 2) For each focus area just identified, what are the key issues that should be addressed, and what relative emphasis should each key issue receive in the Policy?

Focus Areas, Key Issues, and Relative Emphasis

1) Water Quality & Quantity/Sufficiency

- a) Establish a dialogue at a high level to identify issues and provide interstate recommendations on management of water quality and quantity. Facilitate discussions at the state level to talk about long-term basin-wide water quality and quantity issues. **HIGH**
- b) Assistance with conservation measures. Send a message to stakeholders defining the connection between water quantity and power generation and power costs. **HIGH**
- c) Coordination with the states is key, especially in regards to state permits for discharge. **HIGH**
- d) Use the model of TVA's industrial energy efficiency audits performed by TVA staff in the arena of water. TVA could support industries to encourage water conservation and use of new technologies to use less water. (i.e., providing home kits similar to energy efficiency kits). **MEDIUM**
- e) Monitor existing safeguards to be sure that TVA continues its focus on a broad spectrum of environmental concerns. **MEDIUM**
- f) How activities on land impact water. Everything that happens on land has a direct impact in the watershed(s). **HIGH**
- g) Maintain adequate levels of water quality and biological monitoring. **HIGH**
- h) Educate water suppliers on basic operation of municipal water intakes and how TVA manages river flows around municipal water intakes. **HIGH**

2) Land & Shoreline Strategy

- a) How activities on land impact water. Everything that happens on land has a direct impact in the watershed(s). **HIGH**
- b) Maintain existing Shoreline Management policy. **HIGH**
- c) TVA should support, train, and maintain local stewardship offices for permit analysis, etc. to let staff master the policies and provide answers to local requests. Well-trained local staff can make the right decision the first time and reduce appeals to headquarters' staff. **HIGH**
- d) Heightened internal communication and education between organizations (i.e., Economic Development staff and Environmental Stewardship staff) to provide consistent decisions to public requests. **HIGH**
- e) Consider natural resource impacts in economic development strategy. **HIGH**
- f) This is an ecosystem-based business. Based on land and water, there is a set of services that TVA can provide. **HIGH**
- g) Use TVA lands as a 'living classroom' to provide research opportunities on native biofuels and their integration with wildlife habitat. Offer TVA lands to universities and private companies for said research. **MEDIUM**

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- h) Find creative ways to generate revenue based on ecologically-sound business plans. Could TVA use a portion of its reservoir lands to sell carbon credits and then use that revenue to support and enhance natural resource programs?

MEDIUM

3) Natural Resource Strategy

- a) Educate and articulate the stress on the resources based on the known or expected near-term growth (10-20 years) in the Valley. Population growth, load growth and the potential impacts on the resources. **HIGH**
- b) Education on tree plantings for distributors. In replanting trees, is there a species distributors should use that would be better for the environment, better for the area? **HIGH**
- c) TVA should restore, support, train, and enhance local stewardship offices for permit analysis, etc. to let staff master the policies and provide answers to local requests. Well-trained local staff can make the right decision the first time and reduce appeals to headquarters' staff. **HIGH**
- d) Examine ways to incentivize utility districts to take advantage of TVA's natural resource conservation programs. **HIGH**
- e) Examine ways to incentivize power distributors to take advantage of TVA's energy conservation programs. **HIGH**
- f) Encourage TVA's active participation in water-energy nexus research. Maintain a cutting-edge awareness of implications of water issues on power production. **HIGH**

4) Recreation

- a) Consider permit/fee/revenue system such as NPS where users on dispersed recreation sites must have a permit. **HIGH**
- b) Facilitate a coordinated seven-state approach to obtain reservoir specific land and water-based recreational and economic benefit data. **HIGH**
- c) TVA should aggressively pursue developing partners to conduct research on boat usage and boat traffic on its reservoirs, such as carrying capacity of reservoirs for recreational boating. **HIGH**
- d) Encourage recreational use and be sensitive to opportunities for recreation uses that limit impacts on other users. (USFS is a good model "desired future conditions, limits of acceptable change" for finding a balance between recreation and resource impacts). **HIGH**

Other Notes:

- ∞ Develop a plan to start addressing the restart of federal appropriations to support TVA's public benefit activities.
- ∞ TVA lands provide multiple benefits and the surrounding lands will continue to have pressure. TVA should continue its management of lands to provide ecological buffers, etc.
- ∞ Take the lens of conservation and fit the businesses pieces of the environmental policy and framework into that. Change the perspective. "Do no harm and then do good."

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- ∞ Instead of “Natural Resource Strategy” call it “Management of TVA Lands and Water” or some title that better explains it. Include a background sheet that gives a definition of terms (i.e., strategy, policy and framework, etc.)
- ∞ Look at federal partners for terminology (dispersed recreation from USFS) Will give consistency to the public.
- ∞ Why is water quantity not included as a separate issue?
- ∞ What is “sufficiency” in terms of water quality?
- ∞ Look at the Drought Management Plan for priorities in a level 3 or 4 drought for water supply issues.
- ∞ Close coordination within TVA organizations and a consideration of all disciplines when making decisions and delivering public messages.

3. How can TVA improve the draft Natural Resource Management strategy?

- ∞ Very thorough and well done.
- ∞ Pull Objectives 1 and 2 out of NRM strategy and put it in the Recreation Strategy.
- ∞ Strategy should focus only on recreation **impacts** to the resources.
- ∞ Objective 1—TVA should look at highlighting low-impact recreation activities. Emphasize low-impact activities (hiking trails, wildlife observation) to reduce resource impacts.
- ∞ Examine opportunities to generate revenue and offset management cost and support natural resources.
- ∞ In reservoir land zones, consider calling “recreation” “developed recreation.” Also call “natural resource conservation” “natural resource conservation/dispersed recreation.” Be mindful of expectations created by labels and whether they can be met.
- ∞ Encourage more natural resource participation and activities and then manage the impacts. Getting people out can help them appreciate the resources more.
- ∞ Better define enforcement actions...cooperation can only go so far, at a certain point we have to enforce regulations.